Section put and carried.

Amendment to Clause 4 of Section 1.

2. In clause (4) of section I of the said Regulation after the word "apply" in line 2, the following words shall be omitted :—

"To any boiler or prime mover in any steam vessel, or."

Section put and carried.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I pray that the Bill may be taken and passed to-morrow.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Cochin Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I move that the Cochin Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The title of the Bill is the Cochin Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The object of this amendment was precipitated by some difficulties that were experienced by the Trichur Municipal Council in farming out fees collection with reference to the cart stands which the Municipal Council has constructed for the purpose of the carts and other conveyances there. They tried three or four times to farm out these stands but without any success. The matter was referred to the Government and the Government thought that it would be better to do away with the fees. The Council Members also proposed that the stands be made free of these fees and that the tax levied with reference to these carts may be slightly increased. Under the original Regulation the fee was only two rupees. The proposal is to increase it to Rs. 2-8-0. With reference to rikshaws it was Rs. 1-8-0 and it is proposed to raise it to Rs. 1-12-0. With reference to other carriages the present rate is Rs. 3-0-0. It is sought to be raised to Rs. 3-8-0. That is the object of the amendment.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Have the Government invited the opinions of other Municipalities in this matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is not necessary. There is still the option for the Municipality to raise or not to raise the tax. The Trichur Municipality wanted to make their cart-stands free and increased the tax on the carts.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—The stand is free. There is no option for that in other Municipalities.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is that option. They may continue the present system or adopt the procedure followed in Trichur.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Was there any representation by the hackney owners in respect of this amendment?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government are informed that they will be only too glad to follow this amendment and pay the increased tax.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—These cart owners are very poor and these carts are kept in the stand and they find it very difficult to pay this Rs. 2-0-0 even now. I am sure that there would be no cart owner who would have ever said that they are glad to have this amount raised.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They get the stand free. Therefore it would benefit those who have trade in this business. It is such persons that are to be consulted.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—These carts are without springs. These cart owners are very poor and they depend upon their daily earnings for their existence. All these carts have to pay Rs. 2-0-0 without much grumbling.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Now there need be no apprehension. If there is any complaint I am sure the Municipal Council would not have moved in the matter. There is no compulsion on the other Municipalities to follow the Trichur Municipality. The Trichur Municipality is going to change the rule. Naturally they must have ascertained the wishes of the people. There need be no apprehension at all.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know the amount of license fees collected from the rikshaw wallas in the stands?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is a very small amount.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I think it is 3 pies, and they are going only to stand to gain by increasing these rates. Otherwise the rikshaw wallas have to pay three pies every day and the other cart owners will have to pay one anna or half-anna per day. By this increase they have to pay only eight annas more a year. Therefore comparatively they are going to gain. I think this is a measure which every one should support.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I pray that Standing Order 32 might be suspended and I may be allowed to move for the consideration of the Bill.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—I propose that this may not be considered now but may be adjourned for another session.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Trichur Municipal Council has been pressing this matter for a long time; and to postpone it to the next Vrischigam session means they have to

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forego the revenue from the stands for a long time. To deny them the advantage that might result from passing this Bill will be rather hard. There is no necessity either to postpone it. It will not affect any other Municipality. They may either follow the procedure in the Trichur Municipality or continue the present method. They need not necessarily follow Trichur. Only the maximum rate has been increased. It is not necessary that the Municipality should tax the carts up to the maximum limit. The Trichur Municipality is going to do it because they are going to make their stands free. The others may continne the present rates and make collections from the cart stand also. It is quite a harmless Regulation. I can assure the House that if we deny it, it will be denying the Trichur Municipality a good income. It does not affect any other Municipal Council. The Trichur Municipality has been pressing this upon the Government for a long time. We are sorry that this could not be published earlier.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon:—Has not the cart stand been farmed out this year?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not know. They have been pressing for this matter from Karkadagam 1106 or Chingam 1107.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—There is another aspect. The owner of a rikshaw will have to pay a higher rate now.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It need not be followed in the other Municipalities. There is no compulsion to follow this procedure. The Trichur Municipality finds it more convenient and the Municipal Council has voted for it and the Chairman has been pressing for it. The other Councils need not follow it. Only the maximum rate has been increased. That will not put any pressure upon the other Municipalities.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—Even in Trichur those who are owners of rikshaws will have to pay a higher rate. They do not keep their rikshaws in the stand. So they have to pay a higher rate.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is no complaint from any body. And naturally the presumption is that every body is for it at least in Trichur.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is there any representative of the rikshaw wallas in the Municipal Council at Trichur?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There need not necessarily be that to get their case heard.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Any labour representative?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There need not be any labour representative either for the purpose.

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Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to place on the table the correspondence between the Trichur Municipality and the Government in this matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is absolutely no objection to do that.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Then, can we have it to-morrow?

President.—The question now to be decided is whether Standing Order 32 be suspended and the Bill taken into consideration. I suspend the Standing Order.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I pray that the Bill may be taken into consideration. I may assure the Hon'ble Members that the provision with regard to this matter is definite. The section as it stands is clear:—

"(1) The Council may construct or provide and maintain public landing-places, halting-places and cart-stands and may levy rents and fees for the use of the same.

(2) A statement in English and Malayalam of any fees prescribed by the Council for the use of such place shall be put up in a conspicuous part of every such place where they are leviable.

(3) This Council may farm out the collection of such rents and fees for any period not exceeding three years at a time and on such terms and conditions as it may think fit."

The maximum rate is sought to be increased to Rs. 2-8-0. The Municipality is not bound to levy it. It is left to them to levy or not to levy it. The Government only says that you cannot exceed this maximum. The same is the case with rikshaws and other vehicles. So that if there is any grievance felt by any particular Council that they should not levy this maximum from the cart owners, it is perfectly open to them to levy what they are levying at present or anything less. The section gives them power not to levy the fees at all. If they decide to levy the tax it shall not exceed this maximum. I do not think there is room for any apprehension. After all it is only a harmless amendment and since the Trichur Municipality has been pressing this upon the attention of the Government, I do not feel that so far as this matter is concerned there is any necessity to adjourn the matter.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—The difficulty is that the Government have accepted that the stands should be made free.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is not compulsory. If there are complaints the Municipality will revise it. The Municipality has informed us that this will be beneficial to the cart-owners.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—After the passing of this Regulation, will the Ernakulam or any other Municipality be entitled to have a cart-stand and levy fees there? One of the sources of

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the Council's income will have to be justified in farming out the cart stand.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—So far as that matter is concerned it is provided in section 155 of the Municipal Regulation. That section is not sought to be repealed at all. That section stands as it is.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I understand from a Member of the Trichur Municipal Council that there was some opposition to this proposal of raising the tax. One Member, I understand, even proposed that in these days of hardship and depression nothing should be collected from these poor rikshaw-wallas. I can say that there is one shade of opinion against the proposal to increase the tax.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I do not claim to be in the know of things. But I think this question has arisen in this way. There are stands provided for rikshaws by Municipalities and they are generally farmed out. Many of the rikshaw-wallas do not put their rikshaws in the stands. They keep them by the sides of the road. They are not allowed to do so. But they persist in keeping them by the side of the roads. Fees are collected from them on the presumption that they are keeping their rikshaws in the stand. There used to be trouble in the collection of money and in order to avoid this in future the Municipality has suggested this method. The poor rikshaw-wallas are only going to gain by this. The private owner using a rikshaw for his own purpose may have to pay a little more. But the ordinary rikshaw-walla will certainly gain; whether the rikshaws are kept in the stand or in the road they will have to pay three pies a day *i. e.*, $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas a month. The increase is only four annas for a half year. He need pay in a year only what he will have to pay in a month under the present rules. Of course this is compulsorily collected in a lump. That is the only difference. So far as I know this appears to be the position. It is better that we pass this in this Council. Unfortunately the Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi who is the Chairman of the Trichur Municipality is absent to-day. If the Government has no objection this may be adjourned for to-morrow or day after. Then he will come and the Council will have the benefit of knowing the real state of affairs. Therefore I move that under Standing Order 26 this business may be adjourned.

President.—The Government Advocate requests me to suspend the operation of Standing Order 32. I suspend the Standing Order and permit the Government Advocate to move for the consideration of the bill.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I was under a wrong impression.

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President.—It may be taken up to-day.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I move that the Bill be taken up into consideration.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

President.—Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation, XI of 1096, hereinafter referred to as the said Regulation, it is hereby enacted as follows:—

Preamble.

Pnamble put and carried.

1. This Regulation may be called "The Cochin Municipal (Amendment) Regulation of 110 .

Short title.

Section put and carried.

2. In section 53 (1) of the said Regulation for the words "two rupees" occurring between the words "exceed" and "per cart" substitute the words "two rupees, eight annas."

Amendment of section 53 (1).

Section put and carried.

3. In Schedule III of the said Regulatio for the figures against the entries "For every two wheeled vehicle constructed to be drawn by one or more animals" and "For every rikshaw" substitute the figures "3-8-0" and Rs. "1-12-0' respectively.

Amendment of Schedule III,

Section put and carried.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I move that the Bill be taken up and passed to-morrow.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

(1) Second crop Assessment—(*contd*).

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—ഈ രണ്ടാം വിളവു നികുതി പിരിയ്ക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളെല്ലാം ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്ന മെമ്പർതന്നെ വിശദമായി ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ സ്ഥിതിയ്ക്ക് അതിനെക്കാൾ കൂടുതലായി ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിയ്ക്ക് വളരെയൊന്നും പറയുവാനില്ല. സാല്പം വിലയുമാത്രമെ പറയുവാനുള്ളൂ.

രണ്ടാംവിളവുനികുതി പിരിയ്ക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതു തന്നെ അനീതിയായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നാണ് എനിയ്ക്ക് ആദ്യമായി പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. എന്തുകൊണ്ടെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ ഇക്കഴിഞ്ഞ സെറ്റിൽമെൻറുകാലത്തു് ഈ ഭൂമികളെ എല്ലാം ഒരു വിളവെടുക്കുന്ന ഭൂമികൾ ഇന്നതെന്നും രണ്ടു വിളവെടുക്കുന്ന ഭൂമികൾ ഇന്നതെന്നും തീർച്ചയാക്കിയിരുന്നു. അതായതു് വിരിപ്പുഭൂമി ഇന്നതു്, മുണ്ടകൻ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്ന ഭൂമി ഇന്നതു്എന്നു തീർച്ചയാക്കിയിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ

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